

Dogs and Other Pets Policy

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the rules and procedures we have in place in relation to dogs and other pets attending our school grounds.

POLICY

Assistance dogs

Lake Bolac College understands its obligations under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* (Cth) and the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* (Vic) and will make reasonable adjustments for members of our school community with a disability who require an 'assistance animal' to help alleviate the effects of their disability. Assistance animals are permitted to attend our school with their handler. Our school principal can lawfully ask a person to produce evidence that an animal:

- is trained specifically to assist a person alleviate the effects of a disability (eg seeing eye dogs)
- meets standards of hygiene and behaviour appropriate for a school environment.

We understand that in some circumstances, students may require an assistance animal to attend school to help them to participate in their educational program. Lake Bolac College will consider a request by a student with a disability to allow an assistance animal to attend school with them on a case-by-case basis. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact the Principal.

Dogs and other pets

Lake Bolac College is not a public place, and our principal has the authority to permit or decline entry to school grounds and impose conditions of entry.

Whilst Lake Bolac College understands that many families in our school community keep dogs and other animals as pets, to ensure that our school remains a safe and inclusive place for everyone, pets are not permitted on school grounds.

Our school community is diverse, and may include people that are allergic or uncomfortable around animals. We are also conscious of the health hazards that may be posed by pets. We ask that families please leave their pets at home or safely tether them outside school grounds when attending our school or school events.

Stray dogs

Unaccompanied or stray dogs sighted at our school should be reported immediately to the office staff. School staff will contact municipal authorities and/or Victoria police for assistance in managing and removing a stray dog from school grounds, and ensure staff and students remain safe at school.

Petting Zoos and Visiting Animals

Petting zoos and other animals may be invited to visit the school at the discretion of the principal.

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- School Policy and Advisory Guide:
 - [Duty of Care](#)
 - [Visitors in Schools](#)

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our staff in the following ways:

- Compass



REVIEW CYCLE

This policy was last reviewed and approved by school council in June 2022 and is scheduled for evaluation and review in June 2024.

APPROVAL

Created date	Wednesday 1 st June 2022
Endorsed by	Giselle Allgood, Principal
Endorsed on	Tuesday 21 st June 2022
Next review date	June 2024

